

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 05055 051837Z

73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01 L-03 IO-13

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R 051759Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8587

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL ANTWERP

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 5055

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, BE

SUB: BELGO-SOVIET CONSULAR AND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

REF: BRUSSELS 3252 (NOTAL) AND ANTWERP A-40

1. RESPONSIBLE FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS, AWARE OF ANTWERP PRESS REPORTS OF THE PENDING OPENING OF A SOVIET CONSULATE IN ANTWERP, TELL US THAT THERE ARE NO CURRENT PLANS TO THIS EFFECT. ALTHOUGH THE BELGIAN-SOVIET CONSULAR AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR SUCH AN OFFICE, THE BELGIANS HAVE THUS FAR FAILED TO REPLY TO SEVERAL LOW-KEY SOVIET REQUESTS FOR PERMISSION TO OPEN A CONSULATE IN ANTWERP. ALTHOUGH THE BELGIANS ARE THUS NOT ANXIOUS TO HAVE THE CONSULATE OPEN, SOURCES TELL US, THEY WOULD BE HARD PRESSED TO DENY PERMISSION IF THE RUSSIANS BECOME INSISTENT. WE ARE INFORMED AS WELL THAT THE BELGIANS HAVE NO INTENTION OF OPENING A CONSULATE IN LENINGRAD WHETHER OR NOT A SOVIET CONSULATE IS ESTABLISHED IN ANTWERP.

2. THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN BRUSSELS HAS RECENTLY REQUESTED VISAS FOR THREE DIPLOMATS TO FILL NEW POSITIONS. THE REQUEST HAS BEEN SENT TO FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE FOR HIS DETERMINATION. BOOCHEVER

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NNN

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